political career as a member of the Parliament to become a painter of portraits, and Miriam Booth, the Tragic Muse, resolves to continue as an actress, rather than become the wife of a promising young diplomat.

The 'political case' and the 'theatrical case/ as Henry James calls them, are artistically interwoven and presented on the same large canvas, without either of them obscuring a comprehensive view of the other.

The 'political case' is the story of Nick Dormer, on whom his mother, and his fiancee have placed high hopes of political achievement and political power. Lady Agnes wants her son to succeed, where her husband had failed for want of money, by achieving a matrimonial alliance with the wealthy Julia and thereby realize his political ambitions. The great 'executive woman' that she is, Julia's ambition is to become the wife of a great political personage and to play the role of a perfect political hostess. She loves her cousin Nick, and believes, like Lady Agnes, that Nick has all the makings of a ruler of nations. Both Lady Agnes and Julia have very little regard for art, and, in fact, do not hide their contempt for it. Mr Carteret, a retired parliamentarian, and an old friend of Sir Nicholas, is willing to make a big settlement on Nick if the youngrnan agrees to marry Julia, and concentrates on his political career. Lady Agnes, Julia, and Carteret have thus set their hearts upon a brilliant political career for Nick Dormer.

Nick, however, has his own ideal of happiness. He is a great lover of beauty and art, and happiness for him lies in the life of a portrait-pa inter. Artistic life, which is "full of ideas, full of refinement," [u] stimulates him, refreshes him, and exalts him. He is shocked and disgusted by the attitude of his mother, and of Julia, towards art. The beautiful statues in the salon in Paris de *V*Industrie are 'horror* to Lady Agnes. Julia does not care 'a rap about art/ because her 'mind is less graceful than her person'. Lady Agnes and Julia are not

refined enough to feel, and respond to, the ecstatic delight of art.
Nick's election to the House of Commons as a member from Harsh
gladdens the hearts of Lady Agnes, Julia, and Carteret. In the flush
of the victory, and in the general feeling of elation, Nick proposes to
Julia and is happily accepted by her. But deep down in him, Nick
has a strong feeling that he has acted against the requirements and
promptings of his own nature. He calls himself a humbug, and feels
ashamed of his insincere public utterances. He tries to explain the